

Boston, Mass<sup>ts</sup>, April 2. 1849.

My dear Mr. Estlin,

I have never, I think, been more desirous of writing to you, and of writing something that should do justice to my somewhat excited feelings, than since I received from you the "Inquirer" containing Mr. H. H. H. H.'s letter to the Editor, the Editor's remarks upon the subject, and the various other papers called out by those. My predominant feeling in the matter has been an indignant one towards Mr. H. H. H. There is something so small in ~~seeing~~ <sup>the sight of</sup> a man turning his back upon the <sup>who are</sup> few struggling in an <sup>unpopular</sup> ~~unpopular~~ but most righteous cause, & from his serene position in the crowd reading homilies to those who are receiving the arrows & firebrands, the insults and slanders, of the multitude, upon their want of coarseness, civility, gentleness, discrimination, patience, and bidding them regard the sanctified apologists of the slaveholder with more deference & respect, &c. &c. that my whole nature cried "shame" on Mr. H. H. H.'s letter. My first impulse was to write something in exposure of its superficial views - its actual ignorance - of the position of the Anti-Slavery question here; - and I did, at one time, quite determine to do so. I believe



that I have only been prevented from accomplishing this by a lack of the energy needed to overcome the natural indolence of our nature (of which we are told), coupled with an exceeding repugnance to so much as the thought of the man who has so cruelly disappointed many hopes & expectations. We read of those who, having once tasted of the heavenly gift, and afterwards have returned to worldly things, are on that account in a worse position than those who are yet to see the first dawning light of truth; and I feel that Wm. Hincks is in this position. If I rightly interpret the spirit which dictated his letter, it is certainly very unlike that which a few years since expressed itself in the columns of the Inquirer. As I read his letter (Inquirer Feb. 3.) I could not but ask myself, What right has this man to speak thus of the Antislavery movement of America, and its friends? When he was here, he kept himself aloof - I might say carefully aloof - from connexion with the Abolitionists, and identified himself with men who, from the very first, have been most bitter enemies to all Antislavery action, and passionate denouncers of ~~the~~ the active ~~proceeds~~ promoters of the cause. This was my thought, and I believe a correct one. Soon after arriving



in this country, Mr. Hincks called upon  
Mr. Garrison - and never, as I learn, called  
again. I repeatedly invited him to come to  
the Antislavery office, sent him some  
Antislavery journals (as well as strove to be  
of some service to him otherwise), but he never  
came to the office, and shunned, as I now  
believe, the very appearance of any sympathy  
with us. I remember once seeing him, for a  
short time, at one of our Antislavery meetings  
in Faneuil Hall - (to attend which, I believe a  
complimentary ticket had been sent to him) - and  
I cannot recall a second. His home, & associations,  
were all with Dr. Gannett & Dr. Gannett's set,  
if I may so speak - & his impressions of things  
~~American~~ - & the Antislavery movement in  
particular - were obtained of them. Had Mr.  
Hincks been of a weak mind, <sup>or</sup> & unaware of the  
particular necessity of guarding against Am<sup>n</sup>.  
prejudice & enmity toward the Abolitionists, all  
might have been passed by; but it cannot,  
now. Mr. Hincks has sinned against much  
light, and his career since coming to America  
has been a cowardly one. - I am not just  
now prepared to criticise his letter particularly,  
for I have not read it since its first coming here.  
So much time has elapsed since, that I no



longer think of myself making any public  
reply to it, and as between yourself & me  
what I have already said will probably suffice  
to show you the disappointment & the indignation  
I have felt. He has much comforted the  
"conservatives" here, who are amazingly glad  
when they can find their twaddle echoed by a  
man standing apparently in an independent &  
disinterested position.

It seems to me that Mr. Lalor, the new  
Editor of the "Inquirer", shows a very good ac-  
quaintance with the position of the Slavery  
question in this country, and also a sound phre-  
nology in his views of the method of sustaining the cause  
and in his consideration of the tactics of its  
opponents. I hope he will look farther into  
the matter, & then he will express himself more  
confidently & decidedly. I should be happy to  
send him some tracts & publications of various  
kinds on the subject, if you think it best that  
I should do so; or I would send them to you, to  
be forwarded to him in your name.

There has lately been published in the  
Monthly Religious Magazine - a Unitarian work in  
this city - a very remarkable article. It is the basis  
of an Ordination Discourse, by Rev. Nathl. Hall, pastor  
of one of the largest Unit<sup>n</sup>. Societies in the vicinity  
of Boston. It is a frank & full admission of all  
all the Abolitionists have ever said of the  
supineness & heartlessness of the Churches on this

MS. B. 1. 6 v. 2, p. 89



[No. 2 - I am sorry I began my letter upon  
this miserably thin paper; - hope not to be  
convinced so again.]

great question of Slavery, as well as War, Intemper-  
ance, &c. &c. The ~~letter~~ article is very incoherent &  
self-contradictory; now justifying the Abolitionists  
for leaving these Churches, as not Christian Churches,  
& even avowing that they must leave them for  
Christ's sake, and anon, mourning that they attack  
these Churches, & summoning them to come back into  
them. The Abolitionists cannot so far stultify them-  
selves as to yield to such logic. Still the article is  
curious & valuable, and I would beg your careful  
reading of it. It appeared in last week's Liberator,  
in full. I was sorry that Mr. Garrison used some  
expressions about the author, which he did, especially  
after declaring in advance that he was about to be  
very magnanimous; but on the whole I think his  
criticism exceedingly just. Mr. Hall is a man of  
great modesty, & sensitiveness, & of unimpeachable  
character - one, too, strongly characterized by great  
caution, moderation of expression, & desire to do the  
fullest justice to all sides. He is one from whom a  
paper of the kind would come with the greatest propriety  
& with the certainty of having no little weight. We  
regard it as a proof of courage, <sup>in the Editor also</sup> an evidence of a  
greatly-advanced public sentiment, that the piece  
was published where it was. The Editor is Rev. F. D.

Huntington, one of the Unit<sup>n</sup>. Ministers of this City



April 4.

When I commenced this, I was intending to send it by the Steamer (which sailed from New York today) - but many calls prevented me from finishing. This purpose led me to select this thin and blotting paper; but I will not stop to copy, or alter what has been done.

Tomorrow, sails (if punctual to her day) one of Train's Boston and Liverpool line of packets. Mr. T's clerk told me, ~~two~~<sup>a</sup> month since, that these Ships now carried letters entirely free of charge. Letters were taken in her letter-bag, he said, to & fro, without any charge whatever. If this be true you will have to pay for this letter (as I design to make trial of this conveyance) only the English inland postage; and if I had some of your penny stamps, I could ~~send~~ save you even that. I send also a letter to Mr. Armstrong in the same way. Pray let me know if the thing turns out, as I am led to anticipate it will. In case it does, you might sometimes send letters to us in same way. Let your letters be enclosed to some Liverpool Correspondent



with request to put them in the  
letterbag of Train's Boston Monthly  
packet Ships. I am sorry that I  
cannot now give you the day of their  
sailing from Liverpool, but will  
endeavour to remember the question  
and note the day on the back of  
my letter

By the way, I send you  
also a communication from a new  
correspondent. Mr. Joshua Coffin of  
Newbury, a gentleman of about 60 years  
of age, quite an antiquarian student,  
skilled in genealogical lore, and very  
well versed in the history of this country.  
He has written & published a History  
of Newbury (a town at the mouth of  
the Merrimack river in this State) an  
authentic & valuable work - so  
esteemed. He was one of the  
twelve who originally formed in Boston  
(in 1830 or 31) the "New England  
Anti-Slavery Society" - the parent



of all the A. S. Societies of the  
land - and which was afterwards  
merged in the Massachusetts A. S.  
Society - and was its first Secretary.

The simple history of your having a  
letter from him is as follows: Some

time since ~~the~~ strong desire was expressed  
by some of us

that the early facts & occurrences in the  
Anti-Slavery cause might be rescued  
from forgetfulness, and put on record in  
a permanent shape. Mr. Garrison

said that Mr. Coffin was the very man

to do this. He was applied to, and consented

adding the suggestion that he could

do his work with more ease & interest to

himself, if applied to by some person

living abroad, from whom an inquiry

of the sort would naturally come with

more propriety. It has been agreed

that the request could come from no one

more ~~than~~ naturally or more acceptably

than from yourself. Hence Mr. C.'s letter

was sent -

Ms. A. 1. 6 v. 2 p. 107

(1830 or 31)



No. 3.

It disposed to write to him, therefore, you will gratify him & much oblige us Abolitionists generally. Do not undertake it, if you have the least repugnance. He would like a letter which he might publish as prefatory to his own; and he would transmit the answers to you, from time to time, to be first published on your side the water, in such Journal as you should select. We should wish this to appear as your own wish & request, and not the result <sup>merely</sup> of a solicitation from this side the water - which had better not be referred to at all. Your inquiries, he says, can be as minute as you choose. What we wish to get at, is a good account of the Origin of the present movement against Slavery, and of its History, step by step. Mr. Coffin has, it is said, an exceedingly retentive memory, & probably can recall more of this than any other man living; he is also very accurate & precise. He would be glad to introduce some account of Garrison's parentage, & early training, &c. and it would therefore be well to have an inquiry of that kind, - ~~at~~ <sup>on</sup> ~~to~~ and on any other point which may occur to you as likely to be of interest.

It is only proper to add that



Mr. George Thompson has been written to on this same subject; - by Henry C. Wright, who did so, not knowing what had been agreed on, as to writing to you, and without consulting with anybody. But Mr. Coffin - who does not expect any letter from Mr. Thompson about it - says that even should two or more letters of inquiry come, no harm would be done. He could select for publication the one whose inquiries &c. seemed best to open the subject, and afford a guide to his replies. - I have thus, as well as I could, laid open before you this little matter of Anti-Slavery diplomacy, not ~~knowing~~ doubting that you will deal with it wisely and well.

April 5<sup>th</sup>. My last communication to you, if I rightly remember, went by the "Bazaar Box", which contained Liberty Bells, &c. &c. We are now hourly expecting a Steamship from Liverpool to arrive at this port, by which I hope I may have a letter from you. - Who is H. C. Howells of Bristol, who has a letter in the last Liberator?

I heartily thank you for yours of Jan. 30. which I have not before particularly acknowledged. It is full of matter which ought to be more particularly noticed than I now have time for. Especially with regard to the Liberator would I say a few words.



It is ever to be borne in mind that the Liberator is not exclusively an Antislavery paper. Very early Garrison declared it a free paper - free to discuss all topics & questions of general interest & important to the freedom & well being of Man, body & soul. Of course where one man undertakes to speak the convictions, even of such a quick, intelligent, & honest mind as Garrison's, there must be crudities, things too which will offend the taste of some, and a disproportionate place will be assigned, in the judgment of many, to some topics. All this is felt here. The "Bible discussion" now going on in the paper, & which grew out of certain letters of A. C. Wright, written from Ohio last Summer, is very unwelcome to many of the fastest friends of the Lib<sup>r</sup>. & of the A. S. Cause - chiefly from the reluctance they feel to see the acknowledged Pioneer of the A. S. Cause - & in a measure the Cause itself - saddled with all these unpopular subjects; they feel that its own unpopularity is a burden large enough for it to carry, without assuming that of other subjects, as it has to do in the popular mind, though without just cause. - without cause, because the Liberator, as before said, is avowedly open to all these subjects. But Garrison & the A. S. Cause are so closely identified, that it is hard for the community to think that what the former says & does is not endorsed & sustained by the friends of the latter generally. - With regard to the article in the Young Lady's Album at Northampton, it did not appear to me so objectionable as it did to you; - & yet from my inmost soul I sympathize with you in your view of God's paternal character, and in the exceeding value of the reliance we may



Garrison has another child very ill - with scarlet fever - probably will not live.

have on him "in all times of our tribulation", & in all our life. Probably the reason of our difference is to be found in the fact that we, here, know that old Doctor of Divinity well, and Mr. Garrison wrote as he did, doubtless, because (in part) he knew him to be one of the veniest pro-slavery men of the State. This old man - Dr. Snell of North Brookfield - has been a resolute, clearheaded enemy of Anti-slavery from the very first; and he never has wavered or relented one jot or tittle; he is a thorough sectarian, supporting the American Missionary Board, composed largely of Men-stealers, in all its operations, of which you know something; and last fall, in entire consistency with his whole course, he voted for Zachary Taylor as President. He has great influence in Worcester County (his residence is about 12 miles from Leicester) & he has effectually stopped & strangled to death ~~the~~ whatever of Anti-slavery life once showed itself in the <sup>orthodox</sup> Ministers of that region. For such a man to talk "good", to prate of religious consolations, &c. seems to me a mockery of God - little better, ~~than~~ as Garrison once said in another case, than "profane swearing"; it is taking God's name in vain. As you knew nothing of this old man, the whole subject appeared in a considerably different colouring than to us.

We hear nothing as yet of the coming of the ~~North~~ <sup>there</sup> and "Miss Julia Griffiths" - it is about time to expect, if coming at the time you mention.

Mr. Richardson is much mistaken between you & me, in thinking W. W. Brown will go to England to lecture on free-labour-produce. He told me recently he had no thought of it. & though he would very much like to go to England, it will not be, <sup>he says</sup> in connexion with that scheme. I should not be at all surprised if he were to start off with William & Ellen Craft the recently-escaped fugitives from Georgia. I think it would excite a great "sensation" in England, as it has done here, to see Ellen C. and hear her husband's plain, unvarnished Narrative. - I can hardly believe Mr. Scoble honest when he calls the Am. & For. A. S. Society the working one! It does almost nothing. It couldn't even sustain the National Era, & sold it out to the Editor of others. We hear nothing of it now-a-days. Nearly its whole constituency went over, en masse, to the Free Soil party. With affectionate respect, Yours Samuel May Jr.